News-item captioned "Ministry clips outgoing Air MD's bid to rush through 40 foreign postings

2183. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 21st Jul, 1997, captioned "Ministry clips outgoing Air Indian MD's bid to rush through 40 foreign postings";

(b) if so, the names of the 40 officers and the corresponding 40 foreign postings' titles;

(c) whether any action will be initiated in this regard; and

(d) steps proposed to seek an explanation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the list of foreign postings at Annexure (*See Appendix* 181, *Annexure No.* 54).

(c) Officers against whom there is no vigilance/disciplinary case pending or contemplated will be released for foreign postings after obtaining visa and work permit, if there are no other compelling circumstances for changing the orders in any particular case.

(d) Does not arise.

Regional airline with night half facility at North-East

2184. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to float a regional airline with night half facility in the North-Eastern region to develop tourism;

(b) who would have a major stake in the airlines—The North-East Council (NEC) or Indian Airlines Limited or Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(c) whether bigger presence of Tourism Finance Corporation Limited (TFCIL), Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) would be considered in the North-East; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (c) No, Sir. Only a concept paper on "Regional Airline in North-East" has been received from the Indian Airlines. Various options/models for operation of dedicated services in North-East region have been suggested. The paper is under examination.

DGCA Flight Inspector for helicopters

2185. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Ministesr of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no DGCA Flight Inspector for helicopters; and

(b) if so, what is being done about this?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) There is one sanctioned post of Inspector of Flying/Flight Operation Inspector (Helicopter) in the office of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The post is presently vacant due to the retirement of the last incumbent of the post. Action to fill up the post is being taken in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Mid-air collision over Delhi

2186. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in The Times of India (ND) dated 25th June, 1997 under the captioned 'Mid-air collision over Delhi averted for 370 passengers, ATC suspended, if so, details of the incident;

(b) whether similar incidents have taken place during the current year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) Yes Sir. On 22-6-97, the Radar Controller at Delhi Airport instructed the arriving Romanian aircraft to descend on Radial 255 to 17000 feet while clearing the departing Gulf Air aircraft to climb to 22000 feet on the same radial. The Romanian flight crew reduced his rate of descent as per the Traffic Collision Avoidance System advice on his aircraft.

(b) Yes, Sir. 2 similar incidents took place during the current year. The details are as follows:—

(i) Malaysian Airlines aircraft while operating on Dubai-Kualalumpur sector on 17-1-1997 made an emergency descent due to in-flight snag from 37,000 feet altitude to 29,000 feet altitude and passed through the level of Singapore Airlines flight operating on Singapore-Mumbai sector, maintaining 31,000 feet altitude. Singapore Airlines aircraft received a Traffic Collision Avoidance System warning on the aircraft and avoided the Malaysian Airlines flight by descending. The incident occurred due to in-flight emergency of the Malaysian Airlines aircraft.

(ii) Air India aircraft while departing from Delhi Airport for its flight to Mumbai on 2nd April, 1997 when climbing to 26,000 feet and United Airlines aircraft on its flight from London to Delhi while descending to 15,000 feet, had an airmiss at about 30 NM from Delhi. The Traffic Collision Avoidance System was received by both the aircraft after which United Airlines aircraft reduced its rate of descent and Air India aircraft reduced its rate of climb. The incient occurred due to cloudy weather and the Controller's failure to weather and tical separation between in two aircraf.

(c) The main steps taken to avoid chances of mid-air collision are: (i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers, (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers, (iii) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airports, (iv) Proper maintenance of navigation, communication and landing facilities, and (v) Compulsory installation of ACAS in a time-bound manner on every aircraft flying in Indian skies.

Helplessness of companies against counterfeiters

2187. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press Report in the Tribune dated the 26th May, 1997 under the caption "Companies helpless against counterfeiters";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take against counterfeit manufacturers who are having a flourishing business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"संघ का अमरीका पर जैविक संसाधन चुराने का आरोप" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार

2188. डा. महेश चन्द्र शर्मा : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 9 जुलाई, 1997 की राजस्थान पत्रिका जयपुर में "संघ का अमरीका पर जैविक संसाधन चुराने का आरोप" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;